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Sexual Victimization among University of Benin Fresh Female Students: Intervention Implication

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Abstract

Sexual victimization against young girls and women has been extensively studied for decades, however, little is known about the factors that predispose an individual to sexual victimization. This study therefore adopted a correlational survey design to examine the extent to which parent-child communication, peer pressure and media influence are associated with sexual victimization among fresh female students in the University of Benin, Nigeria. Six hundred fresh female students whose age ranged from 16 to 19 (\bar{X} =SD=17.65) were drawn using simple sampling technique in three stages. They responded to four standardized self-report measures. Pearson Product Moment Correlation and regression statistics were used to analyze data at 0.05 level of significance. Result show that parent-child communication has negative relationship with sexual victimization, while peer pressure and media influence were positively associated with sexual victimization. The independent variables accounted for 39% of the total variance in the prediction of sexual victimization. In terms of magnitude peer-pressure made the most potent contribution while media usage made the least contribution. The need to empower parents with effective parent-child communication skills was emphasized among other recommendations.

Keywords: Parent-child communication; peer pressure; media influence; sexual victimization.

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1. Introduction

The increasing incidence of sexual victimization which disproportionally affects adolescent and young adult women is recently attracting the attention of all and sundry including researchers. Studies confirm that female bear the overwhelming brunt of injury and disease from sexual violence and coercion, not only because they comprise the vast majority of victims but also because they are vulnerable to negative sexual and reproductive health consequences such as unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion, maternal health risk and a higher risk of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS [1-3]. Globally, recent studies show that females when compared to the males experience one form of sexual violence and assault or the other. In the United States for example, an estimated 19.3% of women have been raped during their lifetimes out of which 1.6% reported that they were raped in the 12 months preceding the survey [4]. The prevalence in sub-Saharan Africa is not different from what was obtainable in the United States where incidence of sexual victimization ranges from 15% to 40%. In Nigeria, the rate varies between 11 to 55% [5, 6]. A recent survey in Nigeria showed 31.4 % of sexually active adolescent female reported forced sex (rape) at sexual initiation [7]. Sexual victimization in this study is taken to mean any involuntary sexual act in which a person is threatened, coerced, or forced to engage, or any sexual touching of a person who has not consented. According to social and evolutionary psychologists sexual victimization constitutes a continuum that ranges from urging and coaxing to violent rape [8]. According to [9] sexual victimization include rape, forced vaginal, anal or oral penetration, forced sexual intercourse, inappropriate touching, forced kissing, child sexual abuse, or the torture of the victim in a sexual manner.

Sexual victimization is a social problem that is eating deep in tertiary institutions. It is documented that rates of sexual victimization is 3 times higher for females in college compared to females of similar ages in the general population [9]. In a national survey of college students, 7% reported a completed rape, 10% reported an attempted rape, 11% reported sexual coercion, and 28% reported unwanted sexual contact during the previous year [10]. Data from a more recent national survey of college women in Nigeria suggest that approximately 20% experience sexual victimization at some time during their college years [11]. Prospective data on sexual victimization among college women are limited. However, one study that surveyed women at the end of each of their 4 years in college found 31% had experienced some form of sexual victimization during their first year and that rates declined slightly as women progressed through their college years: 27% at the end of their second year, 26% at the end of their year, and 24% at the end of their fourth year [12]. These data suggest that it is during the first year of college that women are at the highest risk for sexual victimization.

In Nigeria incidence of sexual victimization of female university students at different levels of their study is well documented. For instance, a study carried out by [13] reported that majority (69.8%) of the respondents in their study had been sexually victimized with main perpetrators being male classmates and lecturers. About two-thirds experienced the non-physical type of sexual victimization while 48.2% experienced the physical type. Non-physical sexual victimization included sexual comments (57.8%) and requests to do something sexual in exchange for academic favors (32.2%). Physical forms of sexual victimization included unwanted sexual touching (29.4%) and being intentionally brushed against in a sexual way (28.9%). Similarly, reference [14] reported 20% sexual victimization cases in Delta State University. The author in [15] found in her study on sexual harassment of women undergraduates in Anambra State that 64 percent of the respondents had been

touched inappropriately by a faculty member, 71 percent had experienced inappropriate gestures directed to them and 80 percent had inappropriate jokes told in front of them. A study by [16], also observed that out of 1200 sampled female in South-West Nigerian Universities, 24.9% had experienced rape, 86.2%, sexual harassment, 98.7%, unwanted touch 97.8% unwanted sexual talk, 80.1% unwanted sexual gestures while 56.9% experienced pornographic display. The authors in [17] examined the prevalence of sexual harassment on three faith based private universities in Ogun State, Nigeria between 2008 and 2012 using a self-report questionnaire. The results showed that the majority of female students experienced sexual harassment on campus, but many did not report to the institutions. This shows the extent to which sexual victimization is underreported in Nigeria. This observation was confirmed in a study conducted by [18] which shows that less than one in five (18.1%) of 10,000 respondents who have been raped in Nigeria report the offence to the police [18, 19]. Reference [20] contend that sexual victimization may result to shame, fear or risk of retaliation, fear or risk of being blamed, fear or risk of not being believed, fear or risk of being mistreated and/or socially ostracized. Likewise, female survivors of sexual violence and coercion suppress these experiences due to the afore-mentioned reasons. The major reasons for under reporting include stigmatization which could result in rejection by families and communities [21, 9]. Additional reason being the failure of the Nigerian state to enforce laws to protect women against sexual victimization coupled with the flaws in the Law's definition of sexual victimization [22]. Women who experience sexual victimization suffer numerous negative serious short- and long-term consequences including physical injury, poor mental health, and chronic physical health problems such as physical injuries, fatigue and stress disorders [23, 24]. For some persons, violence victimization results in hospitalization, disability, or death [25].

Problem of sexual victimization has attracted the attention of researchers, however, most of these studies concentrated on the prevalence of as well as perpetrators of sexual harassment [13, 16, 17], as well as of sexual harassment [14, 15]. A study on how sociological factors predispose an individual to sexual victimization is scarce in Nigeria, particularly Benin City. This study aims at bridging the gap in literature, hence the justification for the present study which examine the extent to which parent-child communication, peer pressure and media usage are associated with sexual victimization among fresh female students in the University of Benin, Nigeria. The outcome of this study will undoubtedly benefit behavioural scientists, social workers, program designers, policy makers. It will also serve as a spring board for further studies on sexual victimization.

1.1 Parent-child communication and sexual victimization

Parents play a substantial role in sexual socialization of their children given that they are in a unique position to educate and protect their children from sexual victimization. Parent-child communication as averred by [26] is how often adolescents communicated with their parents about a variety of topics, such as drugs and alcohol, sex and/or birth control, and personal problems or concerns. Effective parent-child communication enables parents and their children to express their thoughts and feelings to one another and increases mutual understanding [27] as well as promote healthy sexual behavior [28-30]. Although studies have identified communication about sexuality between parents or caregivers and offspring as a protective factor for youths sexual health, particularly for females [28, 31]. It is documented that parents within the sub-Saharan African region, including Nigeria do not directly discuss sexual matters with their children [32]. Thus, most Nigerian adolescents and youths are left

susceptible to other sources of information (media, peers, etc) relating to their sexuality, which may provide them limited knowledge and skills required for proper development of their sexual reproductive health and the exercise of their sexual rights. In recent years, more and more research has been published showing the importance of parent-child connectedness as a protective factor related to several youth health outcomes however, there is still controversy to the extent to which parent-child communication could predispose an individual to sexual victimization.

1.2 Peer-Pressure and sexual victimization

Peer pressure is another factor that could predispose an individual to sexual victimization. This is not surprising given that as parental support decreases in adolescent period, peer support increases and peer becomes more effective [33]. Accordingly, peers have been identified as an important influence on the sexual behaviour of youths in a wide range of populations [34]. Yet, the directionality of peer pressure on sexual victimization is not clear. It still remains unclear if sexual risk-taking behaviours are initiated in order to conform to an existing peer group or if those prone to engage in sexual risk-taking behaviours are drawn to those who are similarly inclined. Studies have shown that youth with low social support from peers may be prone to engaging in sexual risk-taking as a response to stress, whereas those with high peer support may engage in sexual risk-taking due to peer socialization of risk [35].

1.3 Media influence and sexual victimization

The media (television, radio, newspapers, internet etc) is an important part of the student community. Students constantly use the media for homework, socialization, and entertainment. However, due to the growing literature evincing its potential deforming influence on the youth [36] described media as a “super peer” that gives youth consistent message that sex is normative and risk free. Seemingly, media contents carry to extremes long-standing cultural views of masculinity as aggressive and femininity as passive. Relationship between males and females are more often depicted in ways that reinforce stereotypes [37]. In so doing, these images sustain and reinforce socially constructed views of the gender, views that have restricted both men and women, and that appear to legitimize destructive behaviours ranging from anorexia, battering, sexual victimization and re-victimization. Longitudinal studies of youth found that exposure to more sexually explicit content predicted uncommitted sexual exploration (i.e., one-night stands, hooking up) [38] as well as sexual violence [39].

1.4 Purpose of the study

The major objective of this study is to examine the extent to which parent-child communication, peer pressure and media influence predict sexual victimization of fresh female students in University of Benin, Nigerian. Specifically, the study posed the following research questions;

1.5 Research Questions

The following research questions generated from literature review guided the study;

1. What is the pattern of relationship between the three independent variables (parent-child communication, peer pressure and media influence) and sexual victimization among fresh female students in University of Benin?
2. To what extent does the independent variables (parent-child communication, peer pressure and media influence) jointly predict sexual victimization among fresh female students in University of Benin?
3. What is the relative contribution of each of the independent variables (parent-child communication, peer pressure and media influence) to the prediction of sexual victimization among fresh female students in University of Benin?

2. Materials and methods

2.1 Research Design

In order to explore the strength and direction of the relationship between the independent variables (parent-child communication, peer pressure and media influence) and the dependent variable (sexual victimization) correlational research design was adopted.

2.2 Population

The target population from which the sample was selected were fresh students studying at the University of Benin, Edo State, popularly known as UNIBEN. UNIBEN was purposively selected for the study due to the findings of previous researchers [40-42] who reported high level of sexual promiscuity, networking and harassment among Benin residents including University of Benin students, documented to involve in transactional sex [42]. University of Benin was founded in 1970. It started as an Institute of Technology and was accorded the status of a full-fledged University by National Universities Commission (NUC) on 1st July, 1971. At present the University has thirteen Faculties out of which three were randomly selected for the study.

2.3 Sample and Sampling Technique

A total of 600 female students were selected from the fresh female students of University of Benin, Edo State. Simple random sampling technique was adopted in three stages to draw the respondents. In the first stage three faculties (faculty of Arts, Social Sciences and Education) were drawn out of the thirteen faculties in the University. In the second stage, three departments each were selected through random sampling technique. The last and final stage involved randomly selecting 200 students from the three participating departments. This method enabled the researchers to select a representative sample size (n) from the population (N) in such a way such that every female student studying in the University of Benin had equal chance of participating in the study.

2.4 Procedure

With an introduction letter from the Head of Department of Guidance and Counselling, University of Ibadan,

one of the researchers who is a Post graduate (PhD) student gained access to utilize the students for the research. The students were approached in the large lecture theatres during General courses (GES) and were randomly approached, the purpose of the research was explained to the students, In addition to the instructions contained in the questionnaire, verbal explanations were offered to ensure clarity and understanding. Thereafter, only those who volunteered to participate filled the questionnaire. Of the one thousand and fifteen questionnaires distributed 704 were returned out of which only 600 were properly filled. The return rate of 69.4% was therefore considered satisfactory for the present study. The data was analysed using Statistical package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The statistical tools adapted were Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) and Multiple Regression Analysis (MRA).

2.5 Measures

2.5.1 Parent-Adolescent Communication Scale (PACS)

To assess the frequency with which adolescents talk with parents about sex, respondents completed [43] Parent-Adolescent Communication Scale (PACS). The original scale is a 5-item scale with the root question: “*How often have you and your parent(s) talked about the following*”. The sub topics included (a) sex, (b) how to use condoms, (c) protecting oneself from sexually transmitted infections (STIs), (d) protecting oneself from AIDs, and (e) protecting oneself from becoming pregnant. The current study also added one item on “*the pros and cons of engaging in sex*” in order to capture more general conversation topics about sex as used by [44]. Each item was measured on a four point Likert-type scale of 1 (never), 2 (rarely), 3 (sometimes), and 4 (often). Higher scores indicate more frequent conversations about sex. Test experts certified the questionnaire valid to measure the construct under consideration.

2.5.2 Peer Pressure Scale

The Peer Influence Scale is a sub-scale of Learner’s Aggressive Questionnaire developed by [45]. It contains 14 items out of the total 83 items of the original scale. The items are structured in a 3-point likert format with responses ranging from 1= No, 2= undecided, and 3= yes. The items include questions such as “*I feel uncomfortable in a group of my peers*”, “*my friends encourage me to do bad things*”, “*I feel I am rejected by my peers*”. The scale has reported a two week test-re-test reliability co-efficient of 0.62 with an original cronbach alpha coefficient of 0.74.

2.5.3 Media Influence Scale

The media influence was assessed by adapting the Teen Media Health Survey (TMHS) questionnaires [46]. The scale is a six (6) item scale designed to assess extent to which adolescents perceive that media provides them with permission to have sex. The scale is a 5-point likert format scale with response ranging from 1, strongly disagree to 5, strongly disagree. It has been used in studies exploring sexual attitudes and behaviors among adolescents [46]. The scale has reported a strong reliability score of 0.94.

2.5.4 Sexual Experiences Survey (SES)

Sexual victimization/re-victimization was assessed using the Sexual Experience Scale by [47]. The Sexual Experiences Survey is a ten (10) item scale designed to measure frequency of occurrence since age 14 across five levels of coercion: unwelcome sexual contact, attempted coercion, coercion, attempted rape and rape. Respondents are classified according to the most severe sexual victimization that they reported, ranging from no sexual victimization to rape. Female adolescents are classified as victims of rape if they answered "yes" to items 8, 9, or 10. If they answered "yes" to items 6 or 7 but not to any higher numbered items they are classified as victims of sexual coercion. Female adolescents are classified as victims of attempted rape if they answered "yes" to items 4 or 5 but not to any higher numbered items. If they answered "yes" to items 1, 2, or 3 but not to any higher numbered items female adolescents are classified as victims of sexual contact.

3. Results

3.1 Sample characteristics

A total of 600 respondents' with similar demographic characteristics' except for family structure, participated in the study.

The age of the participants ranged from 15 to 19 years with a standard deviation of 17.65. With regards to family structure, two hundred and fifty six (42.67%) were with single parents (mothers only (58.59%), fathers only (21.88%)), while three hundred and forty-four (57.33%) live with both parents. Results show that four hundred and twenty 420 (70%) female students had experienced unwanted sexual contact, while over two hundred and twenty nine 229 (38.17%) had experienced attempted rape.

Majority of the respondents, (86.7%) had experienced sexual coercion, while two hundred and fifty 117 (31.67%) had experienced rape.

3.2 Research Question One: Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) presented on table 1, show that sexual victimization is negatively correlated with parent-child communication ($r = -.158$; $p < .01$). This implies that parent-child communication is inversely active, that is, the higher the parent-child communication, the less likely the student will be sexually victimized. Also, the table evinced that sexual victimization correlated significantly and positively with peer pressure ($r = .176$; $p < .01$), and media influence ($r = .141$; $P < 0.01$). This implies that the greater the peer pressures among participants, the higher the vulnerability sexually victimization. Similarly, the more exposure to media contents and messages transmitting sex and violence the more likely the respondents are susceptible to sexual victimization.

3.3 Research Question Two

In order to establish the extent to which the independent variables jointly predicted the dependent variable, Multiple Regression Analysis was used to analyze the data, and the result is presented on table 2.

Table 1: Mean, Standard deviation and correlation matrix correlations of the independent variables and sexual victimization

Models	Sexual victimization	Parent-child communication	Peer pressure	Media influence
Sexual Victimization	1.00			
Parent-child communication	-.158*	1.00		
Peer pressure	.176**	.066**	1.00	
Media influence	.141**	.025	.092**	1.00
X	600	600	600	600
Mean	54.69	31.73	31.19	13.62
SD	10.51	9.141	9.160	10.464

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed) ** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

Table 2: Summary of Regression Analysis of the composite contribution of the independent variables to the prediction of sexual victimization

Multiple R=.205						
R – Square= .042						
Adjusted R=.039						
Standard error of the estimate=8.130						
Model	Sum of square	Df	Mean Square	F-ratio	P	Remarks
Regression	404.502	3	134.834	16.84	.000	Sig
Residual	4770.775	596	8.005			
Total	5175.277	599				

Multiple Regression result presented on table 2 show that the independent variables (parent-child communication, peer pressure and media influence have composite contribution to the prediction of sexual victimization of fresh undergraduates at University of Benin. This is confirmed by the result of coefficient of multiple correlations (R); = .205; (R^2) = .042, and multiple adjusted R^2 = .039. The outcome is indicative of the fact that the independent variables jointly accounted for about 39% variation in the prediction of sexual

victimization of the respondents while other variables not examined in this study accounted for 70 %. In addition, Analysis of variance produced an F- ratio value significant at .000 level alpha level ($F = 16.84$; $df = 3, 596$; $p < .05$). This result suggests that the three hypothesized variables contributed significantly either negatively or positively to the prediction of sexual among fresh undergraduates of the University of Benin.

3.4 Research Question Three

Table 3 was used to present the result of the third research questions which examined the relative contribution of each of the independent variable (Parent-child communication, peer pressure and media influence) to the prediction of the dependent variable (sexual victimization).

Table 3: Relative contribution of the Independent Variables to the Prediction sexual victimization

Model	Unstandardized Coefficient	Standardized Coefficient	Standardized Coefficient	T	Rank	Sig
	B	Std. Error	Beta (β)			
(Constant)	13.379	.787		17.003		.000
Parent-child comm	-.185	.052	-.087	-3.564	2 nd	.000
Peer pressure	.345	.075	.112	4.632	1 st	.000
Media influence	.120	.044	.068	2.739	3 rd	.004

From the results displayed in table 3 each of the independent variable made significant individual contributions to the prediction of the criterion measure (sexual victimization) in varying weights.

The following beta weights represent the predictive strength of the independent variables observed in accordance to the most effective to the least; peer pressure ($\beta = .112$, $t = 4.632$, $P < 0.05$), media influence ($\beta = .068$, $t = 2.739$, $P < 0.05$) and Parent-child communication ($\beta = -.087$, $t = -3.564$, $P < 0.05$). This implies that while peer pressure is most potent factor in predicting sexual victimization among parent-child communication was the least potent.

4. Discussion

The study findings revealed that majority (70%) of fresh female students have experienced varying form of sexual victimization (rape, forced vaginal, anal or oral penetration, forced sexual intercourse, inappropriate

touching, forced kissing, child sexual abuse). This finding collaborates the earlier report of [20] as well as the recent findings of [9] of the phenomenal increase in sexual exploitation of females in tertiary institutions. The outcome similarly, supports the theoretical position of [48, 49] who opined that female young students are target for older males in campuses due to the formers inability to be firm in their decision about sexual matters as averred by [50].

Further analysis on the existing relationship between parent-child communications, peer pressure, media influence and sexual victimizations among respondents as presented on the correlation matrix table, indicates that there was a significant negative relationship between parent-child communication and sexual victimization, while peer-pressure and media influence evinced a significant and positive relationship with sexual victimization/re-victimization. This implies that the more parents communicates with their youths/ wards the less likely that their children will be victim of sexual victimization. On the other hand, the more the youths are influenced by peers and are actively involved in media activities and usage the more likely she will be the target of sexual victimization. This finding was also confirmed in the result obtained for the research question two which shows that in combination the three independent variables have joint contribution to the prediction of sexual victimization. These outcomes are consistent with [20] position that the experience of sexual victimization is not as a result of any single factor, but is an association among several large constellations of factors, that is, factors within the individual, relationships, community and societal. These domains of influence interact to modify each other while determining the individual's predisposition or otherwise to sexual victimization. Further, the outcome is consistent with Social psychology of [51] which underlines the interactive character of the human behaviour, and the fact that the sexual victimization is the result of the interaction between the individual's characteristics and the circumstances of the surrounding social context. For example, deficiencies in family socialization through parent-child communication can make the student subject of sexual experimentation social in the school. Such student will be left to negative peer and media influence which are extremely destructive and will increase the probability of the youth to be target of sexual victimization.

With regards to the strength of contribution made by each of the independent variables to the prediction of sexual victimization it was evident as presented on table 3 that peer pressure was most potent predictor of sexual victimization among the three factors considered while parent-child communication was the least. Peer pressure made a positive and significant contribution as a factor responsible for the experience of sexual victimization. This implies that peer pressure is actively progressive, that is, the stronger the bond of friendship, the greater the individual may most likely be susceptibility to the experience of sexual victimization. This finding is conceivable given that youths are most likely to alter their behaviour to fit in and gain approval from their friends or peers, because they care more about what their peers think of them. However, there is mixed results concerning the nature of peer pressure on young female sexual behaviours and the experience of non-consensual sexual activities. While the outcome is in congruent with that of [52] who reported that similarity of sexual behaviour amongst female adolescents occurs via acquisition of friends who engage in similar sexual behaviour. The outcome is also in agreement with the recent findings of [53] who reported that young females are found to be more susceptible to peer pressure regarding their appearance and relationships. However, [54] gave a contrary evidence when the researcher reported that girls were not easily moved by peer pressure and young girls differ in their susceptibility.

The second factor which made significant contribution to the prediction of sexual victimization was media influence. It implies that the more exposure to media contents and messages are more likely to interpret these messages as approving. In other words, media is thought to be an important factor for transmitting various messages; ranging from sex and violence, gender and ethnic stereotype, social power dynamics, which play a significant role in shaping adolescents behaviours. This finding substantiates previous researchers findings which opined that media carry extremes long-standing cultural views of masculinity as aggressive and femininity as passive [55, 56]. These messages are interpreted by youths as approved and are replicated in their sexual encounter. Parent-child communication made the least contribution to sexual victimization in this study. This finding is plausible since it is well documented that the parent is a protective factor for youth's sexual and reproductive health. The outcome of this study suggest that low parent-child communication (especially discussion pertaining to sex-related topics with their children) is significantly linked with greater susceptibility to sexual victimization. This finding is supported by several empirical studies which evinced that communication about sexuality between parents or caregivers and offspring is associated with psychosocial attribute including increased knowledge, better interpersonal communication skills, including sexual negotiation skills, and self-efficacy [57, 58] and delayed sexual debut, particular for females [28].

4.1 Implications of the study

Sexual victimization has been source of great concern to all segments of the society who play vital role in the lives of youths: teachers, school counsellors, juvenile remand homes/ social workers as well as religious organizations, primary care doctors, psychotherapists, parents and family members and the governments at the federal, state and local levels. Consequently, the findings of this study have theoretical and practical implications for all the groups mentioned. First, it has revealed that they are constellation of constraining factors that is, within an individuals' micro and macro environment that either encourage or deter the experience of sexual victimization. More so, the variables investigated could be protective and effective if used as interventions for young girls to desist from behaviours that could predispose them to the risk of sexual victimization. Peer pressure as revealed in this study, is a potent predictor for the occurrence of sexual victimization, thus, priority intervention among female students is to encourage positive peer-to-peer influence to promote a safer sexual experience among young female students. Accordingly, encouraging effective parenting and parent-child communication especially about adolescent sexuality, can also augment the effectiveness of peer targeted interventions. Furthermore, this study evinced that media is a contributing factor in determining sexual victimization. Thus it is pertinent to note that if media messages can shape the sexual behaviours of adolescents, then the onus lies on those working in the media to run campaigns such as education of adolescents regarding sexuality, sexual behaviour, anti-sexual victimization/re-victimization and safe sex, to harness positive influence on the development of adolescent sexual and reproductive health and minimize negative influences.

4.2 Limitations of study

This study has several methodological strengths such as the use of valid and reliable instrument for data collection, use of representative sample and accurate analyses of result. However, it was laced with some limitations ranging from logistics to demography. First, the present study focused on female adolescents that are

fresh university students. In other words, out of school female adolescents were excluded from these analyses, it is possible that the antecedent of sexual victimization among this group will differ. Secondly, the current study relied on the use of a questionnaire based survey. This self-report data rely solely on participants' honest reports that are subjective, among other things, to participation bias, inaccurate interpretations of the questions, and memory distortion. Thus, it is impossible to verify the participants' responses with the use of other forms of data collection such as Focused Group Discussion (FGD). Furthermore, although statements in the questionnaire were crafted to make them non-judgmental, sex-related terms could conflict with moral inclinations and also influence results obtained. However, precautions were taken to ensure the minimization of measurement error and participant bias by defining terminology and using manila envelopes during data collection to increase privacy. Thirdly, the research was carried out in only one university in South-South Nigeria and the findings may not totally represent the views of all female adolescents that are fresh university students. However, these limitations do not undermine the validity and reliability of the study findings, but heralds further studies within the context of the current study limitations.

4.3 Conclusion

The outcome empirically evinced that sexual coercion is the most form of sexual victimization that is experienced among fresh female students. More so, the study has revealed that the three variable investigated, individually or collectively predicts sexual victimization among fresh female students in the university. Therefore, the findings from this study provide a useful tool by which assessment, diagnosis and counseling of adolescents that are sexually victimized and re-victimized could be adequately affected. In addition, the outcome has grave implications for the governments with regard to creating a safe and enabling environment for youths to mature to be responsible and productive adult citizens. Policy makers could expand education and health aims beyond delay in sexual initiation and disease and pregnancy prevention to include the skills, relationships, and resources adolescents need for a healthy sexual development. This could be done, when factors such as the variables investigated in this study are synergised into credible programmes or treatments to be advanced for young adolescents/emerging adults (at school-aged population) with view of enhancing positive sexual health.

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